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Rec'd: February 6, 1959  
12:25 p.m.

FROM: Bonn

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1700, February 6, 3 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 1700, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 556, LONDON 399, LUXEMBOURG 56, BRUSSELS 61, DUESSELDORF, BREMEN UNNUMBERED

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Major Ibanks called on Embassy representative yesterday to state British Government had made strong protest to Federal Republic regarding base period used for determination for allocation coal quota. UK Ambassador made protest directly to Chancellor. Major Ibanks requested to express hope US would not feel upset if result of protest was some minor cut in quota for US but matter was important to UK. Embassy officer stated on personal basis he thought US, in view of sharp cut US coal exports, would be indignant if quota allocated to US cut further. According to UK representative amount involved would be some 200,000 tons. Embassy representative suggested more useful effort by UK might be in direction of pressing for increase in total quota.

Embassy understands Norwegians have also protested strongly. Had expected export some 100,000 tons of coal from Spitzbergen which not cut to 50,000 tons. The Norwegian Government informed Federal Republic impact on Communist problem in Spitzbergen might be serious.

BRUCE

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